AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A switching device configured to open and close a current circuit, the switching device comprising a frame, a first connector and a second connector, the first connector and the second connector extending from an interior of the frame to an exterior of the frame, means for connecting the first and the second connector electrically to one another, and a ~~one or more~~ gas flow ~~openings~~ opening provided in the frame and arranged for a first part of ~~between the interior and the exterior of the frame and arranged for~~ a gas flow produced by a switching event, the first part of the gas flow being the part that is produced between the first connector and the means for connecting, wherein the first connector comprises a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame and configured to conduct an electric current of the current circuit in a closed state of the switching device, the hole being provided for said first part of the gas flow and being located and dimensioned such that a substantial portion of the first part of the gas flow will flow through the hole.

2. (Currently Amended) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frame includes an upper part and a lower part, the lower part being arranged to reside in the vicinity of frame structures of a mounting space, such as a switchgear cubicle, and wherein ~~each of~~ said gas flow ~~openings~~ opening provided in

the frame resides farther from the lower part of the switching device than the first connector and the second connector do.

3. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first connector and the second connector are identical with one another.

4. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, comprising one gas flow opening for each connector, wherein said gas flow openings differ in the size of their cross-sectional area.

5. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the surface area of each said gas flow opening is dimensioned such that in a switching situation, the velocity of gas discharging out of each gas flow opening is substantially the same.

6. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first connector and the second connector are identical with one another.

7. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 2, comprising one gas flow opening for each connector, wherein said gas flow openings differ in the size of their cross-sectional area.

8. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 3, comprising one gas flow opening for each connector, wherein said gas flow openings differ in the size of their cross-sectional area.

9. (Currently Amended) A switching device configured to open and close a current circuit, the switching device comprising a frame, a first connector and a

second connector, the first connector and the second connector extending from an interior of the frame to an exterior of the frame, means for connecting the first and the second connector electrically to one another, the switching device is configured to be connected to the current circuit by the first connector and the second connector such that the current circuit may selectively be opened and closed in a switching event by the means for connecting the first and the second connector, the frame having a gas flow opening ~~between the interior and the exterior of the frame configured for~~ adapted for a first part of a gas flow produced by the switching event to exit the switching device, the first part of the gas flow being the part that is produced between the first connector and the means for connecting, wherein the switching device has a gas flow channel adapted for the first part of the gas flow to travel towards the gas flow opening, the gas flow channel comprising a hole provided in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame and the first connector is adapted to conduct an electric current of the current circuit in a closed state of the switching device, the hole formed in the first connector being located and dimensioned such that substantial portion of the first part of the gas flow will flow through the hole.

10. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a part of the frame adjacent to the first connector is provided with a through-hole for a gas flow and is aligned with the hole in the first connector.

11. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 9, wherein a part of the frame adjacent to the first connector is provided with a through-hole for a gas flow and is aligned with the hole in the first connector.

12. (New) A switching device configured to open and close a current circuit, the switching device comprising a frame, a first connector and a second connector, the first connector and the second connector extending from inside the frame to outside the frame, means for connecting the first and the second connector electrically to one another, the switching device is adapted to be connected to the current circuit by the first connector and the second connector such that the current circuit may selectively be opened and closed in a switching event by the means for connecting the first and the second connector, the frame having a gas flow opening adapted for a first part of a gas flow produced by the switching event to exit the switching device, the first part of the gas flow being the part that is produced between the first connector and the means for connecting, wherein the switching device has a gas flow channel adapted for the first part of the gas flow to travel towards the gas flow opening, the gas flow channel comprising a hole provided in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame and adapted to conduct an electric current of the current circuit in a closed state of the switching device, the hole formed in the first connector being located and dimensioned such that the gas flow channel passing through the hole is the route of least flow resistance between the place of formation of the first part of the gas flow and the glass flow opening.